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JAPAN.

Report from Yokohama—Inspection and fumigation of vessels—Smallpox on steamship Ghazee—Plague infected rats at Yokohama and Tokyo—Summary of transactions of service for the month of February, 1909.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Cumming reports, March 3:

During the 2 weeks ended February 27 there were inspected 14 vessels having an aggregate of 1,200 members of crews and 451 passengers.

The steamship *Ghazee*, from Yokohama, for New York, on her trip en route to this port, took on 1 man at Singapore. On arrival at Hongkong this man and 2 others were suffering from smallpox. The vessel was disinfected, but 12 days after disinfection secondary cases occurred and the vessel was disinfected at Moji. Several days later, 3 men were removed at Kobe on account of fever, and a telegram from Kobe informed the Japanese quarantine officials here that the men were found to have smallpox. The vessel was remanded to Nagahama and her crew were disembarked and bathed. Their effects were disinfected and the usual sprinkling with carbolic solution was performed in the forecastle. On the return trip the living apartments of the vessel were disinfected, unvaccinated members of the crew vaccinated, and the holds fumigated on account of rats.

Examination of rats in this city showed infected rats found last week and one found this week in the suburb of Yokohama known as Tobe machi, a low-lying suburb in which coolies who work on vessels discharging cargo, etc., live. This is the same locality in which rats were found last year.

Plague-infected rats have also been found in the Niho-bashi area of Tokyo, the very center of that great city, as well as in Fukugawa district across the river, and energetic action is reported as being taken by the authorities to eradicate plague infection.

During the month of February there were inspected at this station 147 intending steerage passengers for America or Hawaii, of whom 112 were passed, 98 certified upon manifest lists, 3 certified as suffering from trachoma, and 32 held for treatment and diagnosis.

Summary, February, 1909.—During the month of February 110 persons were bathed, of whom 12 were destined for Canada, and 273 pieces of baggage disinfected.

Examination of emigrants.

Number of emigrants, per steamship *China* March 6, held for observation: For San Francisco, 2; for Honolulu, 1.

Reports from Kobe—Inspection of vessels—Examination and disinfection of emigrants—Plague and smallpox—Spread of trachoma in Japan—Proposed measures against trachoma.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Knight reports, March 3 and 10:

During the week ended February 27, 9 supplemental bills of health were granted to 9 steamships and 1 original bill of health was granted to 1 schooner.